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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/516,820	03/01/2000	Scott W. McLellan	McLellan-13	3203

7590

09/08/2003

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EXAMINER

HA, DAC V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2634

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/516,820

Applicant(s)

MCLELLAN, SCOTT W.

Examiner

Dac V. Ha

Art Unit

2634

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7-9 and 11-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 and 12-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8,9,11 and 18,19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. **Claims 8, 9, 11, 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art.

Regarding claim 8, the admitted prior art on pages 1-3 and Figure 1A of the instant application teaches all the claimed subject matter “A communication system having a protection circuit with first and second string of series connected diodes” in Figure 1A, elements 14, 16, 18, 20; and the claimed subject matter “wherein the string are adapted to carry substantially independent DC currents” on page 2, lines 13-17 and page 3, lines 10-14.

Regarding claim 9, the admitted prior art further teaches the claimed subject matter “wherein the diodes ... power supply terminals” in Figure 1A, element V+ and V-.

Regarding claim 11, the admitted prior art further teaches the claimed subject matter “wherein the first and second strings have at least one AC coupling path therebetween” in Figure 1A, elements C1 and C2, page 2, lines 3-9.

Regarding claim 19, see claim 8 above.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. **Claim 18** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Metz (US 5,640,127).

Regarding claim 18, Metz teaches the followings.

“a protection circuit including first, second, and third resistors” (Figure 8, elements R4, R6, R5, respectively; Col. 5, line 67 to Col. 6, line 1);

“first and second diodes connected in series with said first and third resistors between first and second power supply terminals” (Figure 8, elements +V, R4, D1, DIA, R5, -V);

“third and fourth diodes connected in series with said second and third resistors between first and second power supply terminals” (Figure 8, elements +V, R6, D2, D2A, R5, -V);

“wherein the first and second diodes are connected together forming an input terminal” (Figure 8, the connection point where R4 and D1 are connected together);

“the third and fourth diodes are connected together forming an output terminal” (Figure 8, the connection point where R6 and D2 are connected together).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. **Claims 1-5, 7, 12-17** are allowed.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dac V. Ha whose telephone number is 703-306-5536.

The examiner can normally be reached on 5/4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Chin can be reached on 703-305-4714. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 305-5500.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dac V. Ha', written over a horizontal line.

Dac V. Ha
Examiner
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